

April 12, 2013

Weekly Views

Parole Agent Denise Jackson from the Indianapolis Parole Office was chosen to be a Keynote Speaker at the 18th Annual Women in Criminal Justice Conference "2013 The Power of Women in Developing New Leaders" in Springfield, MA. Agent Jackson was presented with the Edna Mahan Award for innovative leadership for her commitment to advance the roles of Women in criminal justice. (see photo right)



The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility Clean Lifestyle Is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) unit held a family day. During this event, students and family members participated in group

activities designed for family reunification and the pre-release needs of the students. 20 family members and 14 students were in attendance for the event.

Miami Correctional Facility held its ninth PLUS graduation with more than 100 offenders completing the program. IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, along with his Executive Staff, was present for the program. Miami has had more than 1,500 offenders complete the PLUS program since its inception and now has two and a half units filled with PLUS program participants and graduates. (see photo left of Commissioner Lemmon and Superintendent Mark Sevier congratulating the graduates)



The American Legion Post #130, an offender organization at the Indiana State Prison, sponsored a program where 12 men had their hair cut and donated to Locks of Love. An offender who participated wrote a few last words for his hair, "You have kept my head warm through these cold winters, now go forth and warm someone's heart". The men spoke about cutting their hair for the kids and for family members suffering from or who have lost their fight with cancer.

The Second Grade class at Western Wayne Elementary School donated 95 skeins of yarn to the Plainfield Correctional Facility's Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit for their "Knit Wits" program. The offenders, under the direction of volunteer Donna Olson, knit hats and scarves for orphanages in third world countries.

"Race for the Cure" with Team DOC on April 20 at Military Park in downtown Indianapolis in support of the Komen Foundation. To register for the event or donate to the team, please visit <http://bit.ly/10QGR1U> or contact Lisa Salinas at lsalinas@idoc.IN.gov for more information. Team DOC t-shirts are also available separately through PEN Products. Please contact penwebsales@idoc.IN.gov to order or for more information.

As part of their ongoing commitment to community service, the Pendleton Correctional Facility American Legion Post #608 presented a check for \$500 to the Muncie Boys and Girls Club. The agency's interim Executive Director Yolanda Bonner, along with other Club personnel, were present at the facility for the check presentation ceremony. The Boys and Girls Club serves over 100 children a day and provides diverse activities that meet the interests of all youth. (see photo right)



Chain O' Lakes Correctional staff celebrated the retirement of Sergeant Larry Weeks, after 24 years of service. Sergeant Weeks started in October 1989 as an officer until his promotion to road crew officer where he supervised offenders working throughout Noble County. In January 1991, he was promoted to sergeant, taking lead role in training staff. Sergeant Weeks will be missed!



Students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility received visits from special guest speakers. Indiana Pacers players David West and Roy Hibbert stopped by the facility to talk to the students about finding ways to give back to their communities. Mr. West encouraged the students to identify their talents and to share them with their families and the community. Colts Chaplin Ken Johnson, Elwood Police Chief Sam Hanna, and Second Chances founder Kevin Hummel also spoke with students at Pendleton Juvenile regarding priorities and choices and how they can change one's life path. Mr. Johnson shared that most juveniles are focused on friends and being cool, but they need to realize the importance of their freedom and families. (see photo left of David West)

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted an "It's Spring" food sale that sold sandwiches and fresh baked goods to the offenders. The food sale sold \$6500 for the local vendor and profits of \$2000 were divided and donated to LaPorte County and Porter County Substance Abuse Counsels. Ms. Kirk, TC Director, believes that the county counsels were excellent choices to receive the donations.